



Local Salaries Dry Up at Demoralized Khmer Rouge Tribunal December 21, 2012

The Khmer Rouge tribunal told local staff Friday that December salaries would be two or three weeks late and that no salaries would be paid next month in the absence of new funding from donor countries.

"This new delayed salary payment has indeed demoralized each and every one of the national staff," the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia said.

Kranh Tony, acting director of the Office of Administration, met with staff earlier Friday to explain measures to deal with the cash-flow crisis.

He said the tribunal was working with donor countries and the United Nations to get about \$300,000 of funds earmarked by the EU to pay for the December salaries.

Kranh said the Cambodian part of the ECCC needed a further \$9.5 million for 2013. Although it has existing pledges of \$1.8 million from the government and \$700,000 from Germany, "the national side has received no new funding pledges from donor countries for 2013."

He added that the government had made "timely" contributions for the court's general operations. These included utilities, building repair and maintenance, bus services for national and international staff, health care services for the accused and outreach work

But "funding for the national staff's salaries comes completely from voluntary contributions from international donor governments", notably Japan, the European Union, Australia, Germany and Britain.

"All national staff of the ECCC will not be receiving their salaries from January 2013 on unless fresh contributions are received soon," the tribunal said.

Kranh hoped key donors would "endorse the revised budget for 2013 as soon as possible and provide funding to sustain the court's work and avoid disrupting the current active and smooth hearing process."